

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 141441Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9557

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 14 SYRIAN MEDIA REVIEW

1. SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED TO ACCORD UPBEAT TREATMENT TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING LEBANON. AL-THAWRAH HEADLINED: "INTENSIFIED DAMASCUS MEETINGS ATTRACT WIDE INTEREST AND STRENGTHEN HOPE FOR PEACE IN BROTHER LEBANON. PRES. ASAD RECEIVES KARAME AND SALAM. DISCUSSION DEALS WITH SITUATION IN LEBANON AND MEANS TO RESOLVE CRISIS." TISHRIIN BANNERED: "POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN DAMASCUS CALLS FOR OPTIMISM AT APPROACHING SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS. KARAME THANKS PRES. ASAD AND SYRIAN OFFICIALS."

2. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH ASAD AFTERNOON

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SEPT. 13, KARAME MADE PRESS STATEMENT EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH HIS VISIT. HE SAID HE FELT SENSE OF

OPTIMISM AS RESULT OF TALKS AND EXPRESSED THANKS TO OFFICIALS AND PEOPLE OF SYRIA FOR THEIR SYMPATHY AND FRATERNITY TOWARD LEBANON IN ITS DIFFICULTIES. SARG GAVE KARAME RED-CARPET SENDOFF FOR CAIRO WITH PRIMIN KHALYFAWI AND FIVE MINISTERS ACCOMPANYING HIM TO AIR-PORT.

3. DURING EVENING SEPT. 13, FORMER LEBANESE PRIMIN SALEM MET WITH FONMIN KHADDAM AND THEN PRES. ASAD, FOLLOWING WHICH HE WAS ASAD'S GUEST AT IFTAR DINNER.

4. PRESS REPORTED THAT EFFORTS WERE CONTINUING IN BEIRUT TO PREPARE CLIMATE FOR SARKIS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY. REPORTS FROM BEIRUT STATED THAT NEW AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AT MUSEUM CROSSING POINT TO ENABLE SAFE PASSAGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST SECTORS. CONFLICTING FACTIONS HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO HONOR AGREEMENT.

5. ARTICLE IN AL-BAATH ATTACKED "REJECTIONIST FORCES" WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN EXPOSED BY SOVIET PRAVDA ARTICLE. ARTICLE STATED THAT "REGIME OF SINAI ACCORD AND IRAQI REGIME, THE GODFATHER OF THE SINAI ACCORD, IN DECLARING THEIR REJECTION AND OPPOSITION ONLY REINFORCED SYRIA'S SOUND STAND." AL-THAWRAH ARTICLE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON AS RESULT OF DAMASCUS MEETINGS. THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN DAMASCUS MEETINGS, ARTICLE SAID, HAD EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE AND READINESS TO "CONFRONT THIS AMERICAN-SADATI-ZIONIST NIGHTMARE." TISHRIIN COLUMN DESCRIBED RENEWAL OF SADAT'S PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE AS "NEW FORGERY OF WILL OF THE MASSES." ARTICLE STATED THAT IT MEANT RENEWAL OF SINAI ACCORD "WHICH HAS BEEN REJECTED BY EGYPTIAN NATIONALISM, ARAB NATIONALISM, AND ALL VALUES OF THE ARAB STRUGGLE."
MURPHY

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